

# News and Updates



## **August is an Exciting Month for WKPG!**

Happy August, everyone!

I hope that this finds you all well and staying cool in the summer heat, because things are certainly heating up for the WKPG! We have two **very exciting** developments to share with you - as always, if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or would like to volunteer, just reply to this email!

### **[Join Sally McConnell's Matching Challenge!](#)**

The WKPG's dear friend and long-time supporter, Sally McConnell, has issued a challenge to our entire community - Sally will **MATCH** every donation, through the end of September, up to \$25,000!



Sally has long been a champion for environmental and preservation causes in Pinellas County. Starting with her own home, where she transformed a traditional suburban site into a showplace for native planting and sustainability, to preservation projects such as the West Klosterman Preserve, she has made her part of the world a better place. Her generosity has also supported education, the arts, and programs for supporting children's needs.

If you've been *on the fence* about donating, this may be the sign you've been waiting for! You can [visit our website to donate](#) or send a check in the mail to:

WK Preservation Group

P.O. Box 1032

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

*Check Payable To:* WK Preservation Group, *Note:* Matching Campaign

If you're waiting for a different sign, try this one on:

## **WKPG is on the Agenda for the next County Commissioners Meeting!**

We are so excited to share that, on August 15th, the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners will be **VOTING** to determine whether or not the County will contribute \$1.5 million to the purchase of the WK Preserve! The members of WKPG have learned so much about engaging with our elected officials and we're happy to share that knowledge with you all! Members of the community, just like you, have shared their thoughts with the Commissioners and other decision-makers over the last three years - we're certain that vocal support for the Preserve has made all the difference in the world!

For those who would like to learn more about the meeting, or share your thoughts with your own Commissioner, I've assembled some resources for you. [A contact form for the Commissioners is here](#), you can find out [which Commissioner represents your neighborhood here](#), more details about each Commissioner [can be found here](#), and [details for the August 15th meeting are here](#). I've included their email addresses below, in the section labeled **Contact Your Commissioner**, for those who would like direct contact information.

Many thanks to our Government Liaison team (Tex and Kay Carter) for continuing to pursue and strengthen WKPG's relationships with County administrators and elected officials alike! Your dedication to true partnership is foundational to our forward progress.

We are actively recruiting for a volunteer to help manage communications with our partners - if you love getting to know people and groups that are working in the conservation space, have an eye for digital organizing, and don't mind making phone calls, this might be the role for you! Reply to this email if you'd like more information.

In what is sure to be another toasty month, remember to take a few minutes each day to appreciate the nature around you and the people you care about - stay hydrated, plant native, and lend a helping hand when you can.

All the best,  
Rebecca

Rebecca Hughes, CVA  
Board Member | Volunteer Manager | Volunteer  
[volunteer@wkpreserve.com](mailto:volunteer@wkpreserve.com)  
727-330-2719

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# Quarter 2 Highlights

## Fundraising Summary of April, May, and June

With the summer months approaching, our second quarter was a bit slower than we'd have liked - across three months, our net income totaled **just under \$6,000**, a little less than half of what we raised in the first quarter of 2023.

We are so grateful to the folks whose monthly donations help us meet our minimum operating costs and continue chipping away at our primary goal - to raise \$3 million for the preservation of the West Klosterman Preserve! Every single dollar helps get us closer to that goal!



### In Case You Missed It...

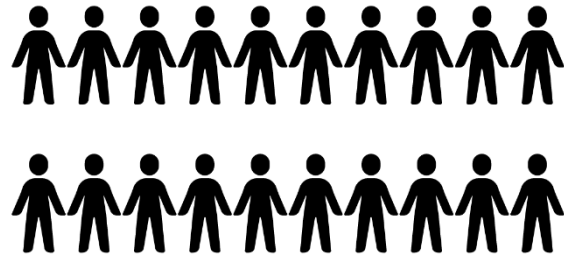
We had a small setback regarding one of our signs near the Preserve. The very kind members of the Whispering Woods HOA allowed us to place a large sign behind the entrance to their neighborhood to raise awareness for our cause. Someone decided to paint over the sign, rendering it both unattractive and ineffective. The Sheriff's Department was contacted. If anyone has information or surveillance footage from July 19th or 20th that might provide helpful details, we'd appreciate the opportunity to learn more about this act of vandalism and property destruction.

### Thank You, Volunteers!

Our cleanups may have slowed down with the summer heat, but we are keeping the spirit of our mission going thanks to the dedication of our amazing volunteer team! We are

always looking for folks with a can-do spirit and the willingness to jump right in and help.

19 volunteers



400 volunteer hours

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# Contact Your Commissioner

## Commissioner Contact Details

Here are the contact details for each of the County Commissioners.

[Use this map to see which District your neighborhood is in.](#)

[The County website has robust resources to learn more!](#)

### **2023 Chair and District 1 - Countywide**

Janet C. Long

(727) 464-3365

[JanetCLong@pinellas.gov](mailto:JanetCLong@pinellas.gov)

### **District 2 - Countywide**

Brian Scott

(727) 464-3360

[brscott@pinellas.gov](mailto:brscott@pinellas.gov)

**District 3 - Countywide**

Charlie Justice

(727) 464-3363

[cjustice@pinellas.gov](mailto:cjustice@pinellas.gov)

**District 4 - Commissioner**

David Eggers

(727) 464-3276

[deggers@pinellas.gov](mailto:deggers@pinellas.gov)

**District 5 - Commissioner**

Chris Latvala

(727) 464-3278

[clatvala@pinellas.gov](mailto:clatvala@pinellas.gov)

**2023 Vice Chair and District 6 - Commissioner**

Kathleen Peters

(727) 464-3568

[kpeters@pinellas.gov](mailto:kpeters@pinellas.gov)

**District 7 - Commissioner**

René Flowers

(727) 464-3614

[rflowers@pinellas.gov](mailto:rflowers@pinellas.gov)

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# Volunteer Corner

We are so very grateful to all of our volunteers - this entire organization has been developed by volunteer efforts.

**Open Positions**

We are actively recruiting for a volunteer or two to help manage communication with our community partners. If you have an eye for digital organization, aren't afraid to make phone calls, and would like to learn more about the many exceptional groups working in the conservation space, this could be the role for you! We estimate that this role will require an hour or two of training, a few hours to set up a tracking system in Google Sheets, and no more than two hours a week to make or return phone calls. If you're not sure about the digital aspect of things,

we'd still appreciate the help with the phone calls! Just reply to this email if you are interested, or call/text Rebecca Hughes directly at 727-330-2719.

If you have a specific area of expertise, or would like to become more involved with anything not mentioned here, please reply directly to this email and we can chat!

### Ongoing Hour Count

Hours for Quarter 2: **400**

Hours for Quarter 1: **665**

Hours for 2023 (to date): **1,065**

Hours for 2022: **3,630**

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# Share the WKPG Story

## Our Origin Story: #SAVEtheWKP

Take a moment to watch [this wonderful documentary](#) about the creation of the WKPG, and our efforts to save the West Klosterman Preserve! This excellent overview was produced by aspiring filmmaker, **Caden Colver**, at the beginning of 2022. We remain as dedicated as ever to the preservation of natural lands in Florida!

Share the link with your friends and family, neighbors, and local officials!

## Learn More on the WKPG Website and Social Accounts

Visiting [our website](#) and following us on social media are some of the best ways to stay up-to-date on the progress we've made, next steps, and our upcoming events! We have an Instagram account ([@savethewkp](#)), a [Facebook page](#), a [Facebook group](#), and we're on [LinkedIn](#)! If you have questions, you can always reply to this email, or submit your inquiry through our "[Contact Us](#)" form on the website!



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**Thank you for your donation!**

**Every dollar counts**